

Further to this, I would like to know how many of these people were able to work as helicopter inspectors in 2015.

Generally only those assigned to positions within the Helicopter and Agricultural Unit (HAU) will work as helicopter inspectors to provide oversight of those operators who hold an air operating certificate under Civil Aviation Rule Part 135 *Air Operations – Helicopters and Small Aeroplanes* or Part 137 *Agricultural Aircraft Operations*. However the nature of the job is such that if required, an inspector carrying out oversight of other operations (for example airline or adventure aviation) can be seconded to assist with the oversight of helicopter operators.

For 2015 the number of inspectors on HAU varied between 8 and 9. Note that this figure does not include the unit manager, team leaders and technical specialist who also provide oversight in a similar way to the line inspectors. The month by month breakdown of numbers in the Unit is below.

It must be stressed that HAU is not the only unit involved in the oversight of helicopters. Flight examiners in the Personnel and Flight Training Unit will conduct oversight of helicopter flying instructors and training operators, as well as administer medical requirements for pilots. Engineers within the Airworthiness Unit (called the Aircraft Certification Unit in 2015) are responsible for the issue of certificates of airworthiness for helicopters, as well as on-going airworthiness and maintenance. The Health and Safety Unit conducts audits and investigations to ensure helicopter operators are meeting their obligations under health and safety legislation. The Regulatory Investigation Unit will investigate helicopter operators if it is believed they have breached a rule. The Safety Investigation Unit will investigate helicopter accidents. The Communications and Safety Promotion Unit conduct outreach activities aimed at helicopter operators (e.g. *Vector* magazine articles and visits to operators by Aviation Safety Advisors). The Intelligence, Safety and Risk Analysis Unit will collect and analyse accident and incident data for use by other units and the sector, including units involved in the oversight of helicopter operators, and the helicopter sector itself.

Helicopter and Agricultural Unit (By month 2015)

Role	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Manager	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Administrator	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Team Leader Flight Operations	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Technical Specialist (ag)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Flight Operations Inspectors	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	4
Team Leader Airworthiness	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Airworthiness Inspectors	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Total	13	13	13	13	14	14	14	14	13	13	14	13

